Application No.: 09/417,767
Response Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 dated May 11, 2004
Reply to the Office Action of February 11, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph at page 6, line 9, as follows:

An image compression circuit 10, when receiving a compression command from the system controller 3, sends a request to the memory control circuit 6 to read out the image data stored in the image data storage area 5a. The image compression circuit 10 compresses the image data read out by the memory control circuit 6 with using a JPEG format, according to the compression ratio data received together with a compression command. The image compression circuit 10 also sends a request to the memory control

circuit 6 to write the compressed image data so that the memory control circuit 6 stores the compressed image data into the compression data storage area 5b of the image memory 5. Incidentally, when one frame of compressed image data has been stored, the memory control circuit 6 detects a size of the compressed image data and outputs the detected size information together with a compressed data storage ~~epmpletion~~ completion signal to the system controller 13.

Please amend the paragraph at page 7, line 18, as follows:

Incidentally, in the monitor mode no compression and write commands are issued from the system controller 13 so that the image compression circuit 10 and the write control circuit 11 will not operate in the monitor mode. Due to this, motion images are merely displayed on the monitor without being recorded onto the memory card 12.

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_____
Please amend the paragraph at page 8, line 11, as follows:
_____

Referring to Figure 4 and Figure 5, in a still image recording mode the high resolution

signal processing circuit 4a is first enabled in step S21. Due to this, the camera data of subject

shot by the CCD imager 1 is converted into image data without being processed by thinning-out.

The converted high resolution image data is stored by the memory control circuit 6 into the

image data storage area 5a of the image memory 5. When one-frame image data has been stored

after shutter button 15 operation, the memory control circuit 6 outputs an image data storage

completion signal to the system controller 13. Inputted by an image data storage completion

signal, the system controller 13 in step S23 determines "YES" and proceeds to step S25. In this

step, the memory control circuit 6 is instructed to block input of image data newly created by

the signal processing circuit 4. As a result, the image data storage area 5a keeps holding same

image data.

_____
Please amend the paragraph at page 11, line 5, as follows:
_____

Incidentally, in a motion image recording mode the low resolution signal processing

circuit 4b having been enabled in the monitor mode is used continuously. The image data

storage area is written by image data with a low resolution (~~VGA~~ QVGA size).

_____
Please amend the paragraph at page 12, line 4, as follows:
_____

After an optimal compression ratio has been determined, the system controller 13

in step S45 instructs the memory control circuit 6 to cancel the input blockage. This

recording mode ~~requires~~ is required to record motion images. Accordingly, cancellation of the

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input blockage is instructed in order to write the image data in each frame onto the image data storage area 5a. Hereinafter no input blockage will be issued to the memory control circuit 6.

Please amend the paragraph at page 13, line 6, as follows:

It is noted that such motion image file is created by the write control circuit 11 only when a first write command is outputted. When given a second or later write command, compressed image data will be accommodated in an already-prepared motion image file. Due to this, obtained within a same motion image file is a plurality of frames of compressed image data related to image nos.

Please amend the paragraph at page 15, line 15, as follows:

When a motion image or snapshot recording mode is selected, there is no not sufficient time for performing compression twice as conducted in the still image recording mode. Consequently, calculated is an optimal compression ratio for the image data created in the preceding frame so that the image data created in the present time is compressed with this optimal compression ratio for the preceding time. Because no significant difference occurs between the subject images in succeeding several frames, the image data compressed with the optimal compression ratio for the preceding time has a size approximate to a target size. Moreover, because compression may be satisfactorily made once per frame, there is less possibility that a breakdown occur occurs recording the image data.

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Please amend the paragraph at page 16, line 8, as follows:

Meanwhile, if in the Figure 1 block diagram the image memory 5 is configured by an

SDRAM, the data transfer through the bus 7 is usually affected by DMA. Furthermore, although it

was explained that image display on the monitor 9 be necessarily made simultaneous with turning

on the power to the camera, a monitor ON/OFF switch may be provided for allowing choice by an

operator. Furthermore, a character representative of not recordable may be displayed not only on

the monitor 9 but also on a remaining power indicator ~~21~~.